

PROFITS ON COAL HIDDEN, IS CLAIM

Mine Workers' Representative Asks Right to Submit Evidence to Board

INDUSTRY IS "MONOPOLY"

By the Associated Press
 Scranton, July 7.—A charge that the anthracite coal industry is dominated by a monopolistic system that "presses up to squeeze the consumer and down to squeeze the wage-earner, by diverting profits at points where neither can see them through the screen of book-keeping and legal devices," was made today before the anthracite coal commission by W. Jeff Lauck in arguing the inadmissibility of exhibits on profiteering and monopoly which he submitted in behalf of the United Mine Workers of America and to which the representatives of the operators interposed objections.

Mr. Lauck also declared that the real profits of the anthracite industry were at least seven times the apparent profits.

The commission was appointed by President Wilson to arbitrate the differences between the miners and operators.

Should Have First Consideration

"The very fact that the operators object to these exhibits becoming a part of the official record in this case," said Mr. Lauck, "constitutes the strongest conceivable argument why the commission not only should receive this evidence, but should give it first consideration in arriving at a determination of this case."

"We contend that there is no warrant for the assertion that the anthracite industry cannot pay higher wages without a further increase in the prices charged to the consumer. Such an assertion is based upon the meagerness of present returns earned by the great anthracite coal companies."

"The method and structure of combination in the anthracite industry is a matter revealing and vital to this present controversy. Thorough investigation of this monopoly will reveal funds which do actually exist, but which are illegitimately withheld from the worker in wages and taken from the consumer in unwarranted prices."

"The anthracite industry has been organized into a huge combination, a monopoly very similar in structure to an octopus. Its head and body are a

very small group of banking interests. Its entwining arms are seven railway systems which control at their extremities the anthracite mining operations of the country.

"The books of the entire concern of the industry from mine via railroad to final disposal by the sales corporation, must be examined before any one can say just what are the profits derived from anthracite."

"Our contention is that such an examination of the books of the anthracite coal combination is essential to the settlement of this controversy on the basis of justice."

Claims Profits Are Concealed

"The point which we wish to make is that a well-defined process exists by which the profits of the anthracite industry are successfully concealed, the high prices being explained by apparent high costs. The losses of the railroad coal companies are written into the cost of transportation through advances without interest and through the funding operations which impose large fixed charges upon the railroad department."

"The high freight rates which such inflated transportation costs seem to justify are written into the cost of anthracite and serve to bridge the gap between the mine cost and the high prices which prevail."

Block in Barn Kills Farmer
 Mt. Holly, July 7.—Samuel J. Cliver, prominent farmer near Smithville, died at the county hospital last night after his head had been crushed by a block that struck him while he was working in a barn on his farm.

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TRADE UNION COLLEGE FOR GIRLS TO OPEN IN FALL

Women's League Plans to Instruct Working Girls in English, Economics, Industrial Law and Labor History. Unions to Help Support School

The Trade Union College will open classes for working girls in six sections of the city early in the fall.

The college has been originated by the Women's Trade Union League of Philadelphia, and last night at a meeting of executives at 1702 Arch street the final plans for its establishment were laid.

The classes will meet in Union Halls and the co-operation of the Board of Education is to be asked so that the school buildings may be used. The six districts already chosen for the first classes are: Kensington, Manayunk, Central (near Seventeenth and Arch

streets), West Philadelphia, South Philadelphia High and the William Penn High School (or in that neighborhood).

The college will be supported entirely by the unions and students, and will be run on a sound business basis, all instructors and lecturers being adequately paid for their services. The union locals will contribute money for its support and the students will each pay a tuition fee.

The courses to be offered are as yet undecided, but will be arranged to fit the needs of those enrolled. It has,

however, been planned that one of the main features will be the study of English. The curriculum suggested contains courses in economics, industrial law and labor history.

The instructors will be chosen both from the colleges and universities and from business. The aim of the founders is to secure men of even balance, who will introduce among the laboring classes a true knowledge of the economic situation of the present day, presenting the problems of life in their actuality and pointing out the possible means for the correction of evils.

Ben Howe, of New York city, director of community councils, spoke on the value of the education of the working people laying special emphasis on what he termed "Labor Illusions."

"Labor is mistaken about many things," he said, "and must be based on scientific facts. Today it is like a pendulum ready to swing from one extreme to the other. There is great need of a consistent course which can only be given by the proper scientific investigation."

"Labor must think, and it can only

do so when its collective mind has been trained. It has been said that labor is a commodity to be traded like other wares. In reality it is life, and when wages are paid, so much of the actual life is bought.

There will be a regular monthly meeting tonight of the Women's Trade Union League when the plans for the college will be submitted for ratification.

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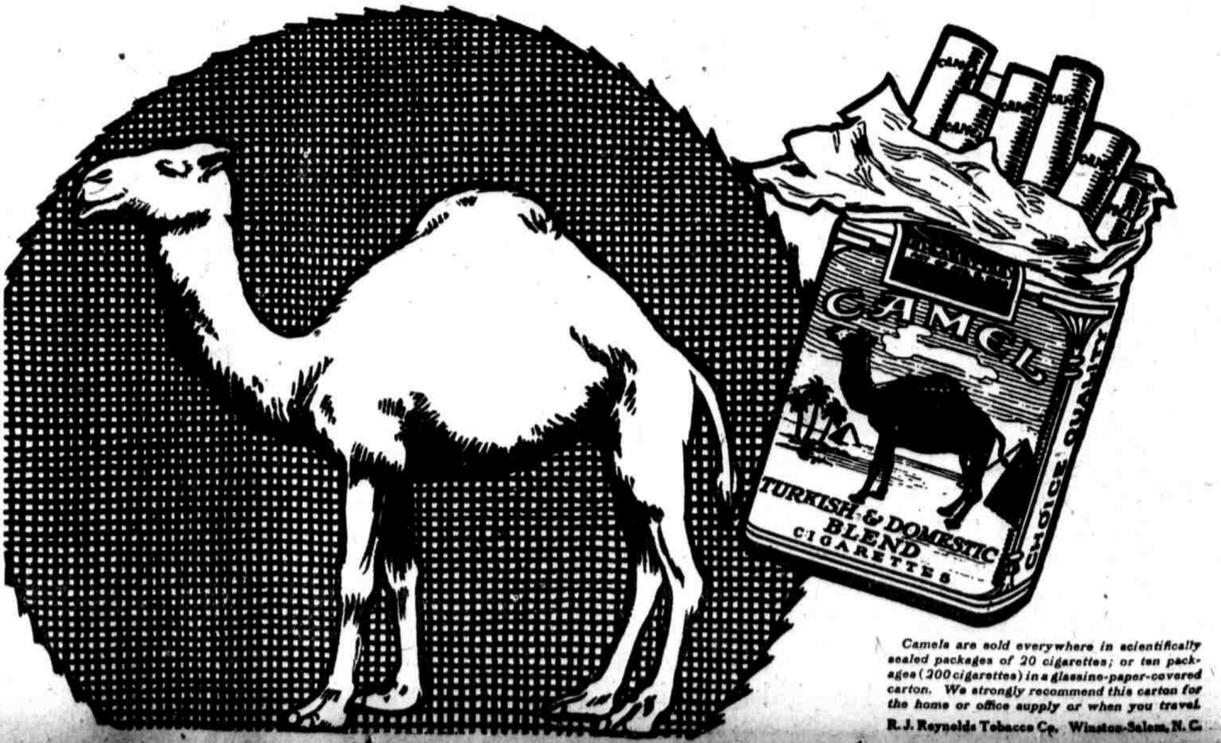
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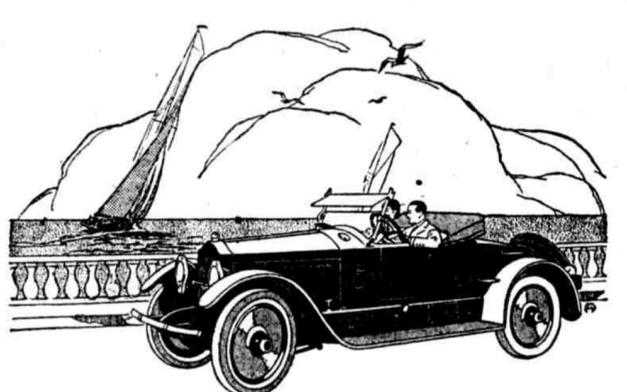
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